

### REMARKS

The claims have all been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious at the time of invention to a person having ordinary skill in the art. Applicants submit that the claims as amended herein are patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art, and over all prior art of which applicants are aware.

In particular, it is believed that a key novel aspect of the present invention is that the claimed method is specifically directed to the commercial processing of green Cicer beans, and that the cited prior art teaches away from processing green Cicer beans. In order to clarify and more clearly proscribe the meaning of "green Cicer beans" in the claims, all of the independent claims are herein amended to include the steps of taking a field tenderometer reading of sample Cicer beans, and harvesting when the sample tenderometer reading is between 91 and 149.

In prior art Cicer bean commercial production of dry Cicer beans, taking tenderometer readings would not be a suitable method for determining when to harvest the Cicer beans because the beans are not harvested until after caramelization when the Cicer beans are hard, and therefore not amenable to a tenderometer testing.

The steps of "taking a field tenderometer reading of a sample Cicer bean" and "harvesting green Cicer beans when the sample tenderometer reading is between 91 and 149" are fully supported in the Detailed Description of the Application at page 7, lines 3-15 and 21-24, and Figure 1. At page 7, lines 3 *et seq.*, the present application states: "The processing method 10 begins with taking a field tenderometer reading 12 . . . . the green Cicer bean equates to a tenderometer reading between 91 and 149 . . . . A decision 14 to harvest 16 will be made upon data collected from the tenderometer readings . . . ."

### Request for Information

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's request for any additional prior art information they may possess or know about relating to the processing of Cicer beans in general and, particularly, the conventional steps employed in harvesting, cleaning, and Cicer bean separation. Applicants are filing herewith a Second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement with all additional prior art information known to applicants that is responsive to the Examiner's request.

### CONCLUSION

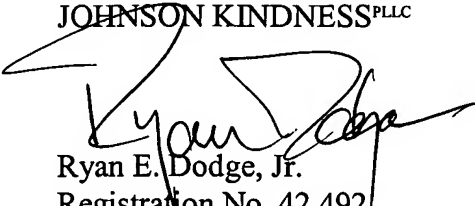
Applicants thank the Examiner for his continued examination of the present application, and requests entry of the amendments and a favorable disposition of the claims. If the Examiner

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has any questions or comments that might be productively addressed telephonically, he is invited to contact the undersigned directly at the phone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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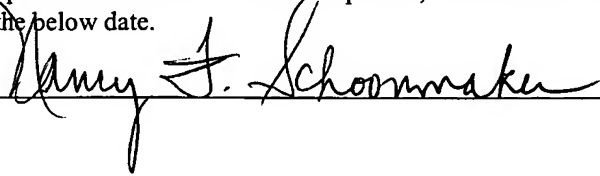


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first-class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

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